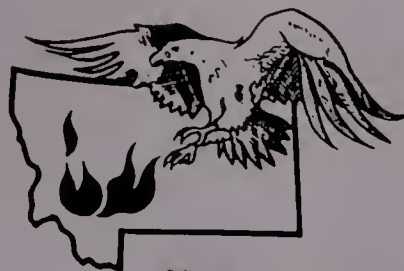


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No. 53

FIRE GUARD

Emergency Services Newsletter

Number 53 September 1991



STATE DOCUMENTS COLLECTION

Public Fire Safety Workshop

September 21 & 22

Fire Training School - Great Falls

SEP 30 1991

MONTANA STATE LIBRARY
1515 E. 6th AVE.
HELENA, MONTANA 59620

The Phoenix Fire Clowns are the main speakers for this two-day Workshop on Public Fire Safety. This workshop will also have speakers discussing: counseling juvenile firesetters, fire safety behaviors, chemistry of fire demonstrations, and a teacher's perspective of fire safety education. There is also a Montana show and tell scheduled for Saturday evening, this is a chance to share your program with other fire personnel. Registration fee \$40 which includes a spaghetti dinner Saturday night.

Montana Fire Chief's Association Conference

September 27 - 28

Sheraton Inn - Great Falls

This year's featured speaker is Chief Jack Snook. He is an internationally recognized leader in fire fighter development. Chief Snook is one of the most highly regarded fire service trainers in North America. He will present his "nuts and bolts" approach to recruiting, training and maintaining a successful fire department. Fire Chief's Conference Registration form is on page 20 of this Fire Guard Newsletter.

Fire Prevention Week October 6 - 12 "Fire Won't Wait...Plan Your Escape!"

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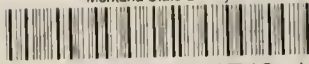
MSUES FIRE TRAINING SCHOOL
2100 16th Avenue South
Great Falls 594057 761-7885

FIRE PREV. & INSPECT. BUREAU
303 North Roberts Room 371
Helena 59620 444-2050

DEPARTMENT OF STATE LANDS
2705 Spurgin Road
Missoula 59801 542-4300

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Montana State Library



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STATE OF MONTANA
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES DIVISION
FIRE MARSHAL BUREAU

Marc Racicot
Attorney General



Scott Hart Building
303 North Roberts, Room 371
Helena, MT 59620-1417

INSPECTIONS

Results of HB - 896

By Richard Levandowski

In the July edition of Fire Guard I gave a brief summary of the impact of recent legislation regarding the Fire Prevention and Investigation Bureau and the fire service in general in the State of Montana.

Fire prevention inspections and codes enforcement, have been dramatically altered with much more emphasis being placed upon performance of these functions.

Let's begin by recognizing the facts in Montana. We basically have two ways of life; municipal and rural. When it comes to application of code enforcement and fire inspections the requirements are the same state wide but the means or methods to implement are different.

Municipal areas, i.e; Billings, Great Falls, Missoula, Kalispell, Bozeman, Helena, Butte and some other cities have full time paid fire departments. Most of these cities have some type of a fire prevention bureau or fire inspection/codes enforcement program in place. The problems encountered within the Fire Prevention And Investigation Bureau generally do not exist in these areas. It is when we get outside the jurisdictional boundaries of these municipalities our problems are encountered.

As a result of the amendments to 50 - 60- 114 MCA the responsibility for fire inspections and code enforcement lies with two specific agencies; the local fire chief and the state fire inspector.

The new language of the law states: "Fire Chiefs in districts when a fire inspection program is established." To clarify This it simply means if you have an established inspection program within your fire protection district you will be responsible for fire inspections and codes enforcement.

If you do not have a fire inspection program established, under the law, you will not be required to perform inspections. They will be the responsibility of the state inspector. This therefore presents a major problem. As you are aware there are only five state fire inspectors in the bureau.

This means that in order to comply with state law each of these inspectors is required to inspect a minimum of 10,000 pieces of property. Yes, 10,000 !! Lets face it this is ludicrous as well as impossible. In addition it has finally been realized and strong attempts are being made at the state level to address this unreasonable requirement.

In the interim, what can be done to assist the state inspector, your area deputy ?

For a start, each volunteer fire chief should accept the responsibility or find another within their organization who will inspect the schools in your district. This is required by 50 - 61 - 114 in that the chief or inspector, " (1) shall enter into school buildings at least once each 12 months."

Believe it or not this in itself would be a great benefit to the state inspectors as well as the children attending those schools.

Recently a survey form was sent out in an attempt to determine how many departments presently have an inspection program in place. This survey from went to over 480 fire departments in the state. The intent of this survey is to determine which municipal and rural departments will be certified to do inspections. The results will show us where we are strong as well as weak in good fire prevention activities. It will also allow us to concentrate on the one issue which has probably already entered your mind, training !

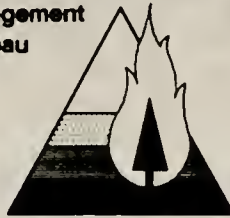
This will be our subject in the next issue of Fire Guard. Hopefully several avenues of pursuit in this regard will be further firmed up. This is a subject which, in my opinion, has a priority one rating. Ironically enough the Bureau, recently received an inquiry from the Western Fire Chiefs Association in regard to UFC training in the State of Montana. It was very embarrassing to respond that UFC training is basically non existent except for isolated local "training".

Those of you who are performing the inspections out there, I want to thank you: those of you who have the desire but have specific fears; and, those of you who absolutely refuse to accept this responsibility, bear with us and at least give our proposals your consideration.

FIRE BREAKS

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF STATE LANDS

**Fire Management
Bureau**



**Forestry
Division**

WILDLAND NEWS & VIEWS

MONTANA DSL FIRE PREVENTION SPECIALIST

Mike Kopitzke assumed the duties of Fire Prevention Specialist for the Department of State Lands on July 29. Mike has worked for the State of Montana for six years in the Assessment Program. Previous to that he worked 6 years for the Soil Conservation Service and Forest Service.

Mike is responsible for the overall State Fire Prevention program and will be involved in Fire Prevention Information and Education; Fire Prevention and Wildland/Urban Interface Planning, and will be Executive Director of the Keep Montana Green Program. Mike will also be the Department's representative on prevention issues to the Northern Rookies Coordination Group, and other federal, state, and private organizations.

Mike's looking forward to working with the state of the art Interface Risk Rating System and Standards for Development in the

Interface developed by the Department, finalizing the work they have done and working with State Agencies, county officials, developers and legislature to put some teeth into enforcement these Standards and Guideline in the Interface. Mike also hopes to revitalize the Keep Montana Green Program. Membership and contribution have fallen sharply over the last few years and the Keep Montana Green message is not being heard.

With the Department of State Land assuming direct protection responsibilities for an addition 2,000,000 acres over the last ten years and also the participation of 52 counties in the State County Cooperative Program, the Department must place a greater emphasis on Fire Prevention. Manpower and budgets have not kept up with the State's increased protection responsibility.

THOMPSON CREEK FIRE

Over 20 local fire departments were mobilized recently to provide structure protection on the Thompson Creek Fire south of Livingston, Montana. Montana firefighters provided protection to 25 private homes and 2 large church camps. Firefighters were on the scene for 7 - 10 days in mid July. No structures were lost in the fire that blackened over 7,000 acres.

Ralph Stewart, Information Officer with the Gallatin National Forest, commented that the incident management staff had nothing but praise for the work that was done by the local Montana Firefighters.

FIRE RISK RATING SYSTEM

Around your station, the Meadow Flats subdivision and surrounding Sapphire Creek drainage is the site with a reputation. Patrols spend extra time there, and the pre-positioned engine in the area has the fullest complement. But what if Meadow Flats and Sapphire Creek aren't *really* the problem site? What if another area is even more dangerous, and is being overshadowed? What about your crews misdirecting their time, efforts and gas costs?

By the end of the '91 season, all DSL will have begun using the Montana Risk Rating System, a method of scoring that Mike De Grosky of the Northwest Land Office developed using wildland/residential interface reference material from agencies around the nation. The Risk Rating System directs each field office to divide their jurisdiction into small areas -- commonly, subdivisions -- and then rate those areas for the risk of fire occurrence and fire spread.

The system uses a form with blanks to fill in and a scoresheet. Users drive through the rating area, systematically recording information about access routes, road construction, topography, recreational use, house construction and previous fire history. Users then refer to a score sheet to score the data gathered, and compute a total score for the rating area.

One outcome of the Risk Rating System is that users are finding actual scores for an area to be higher or lower than how they had assessed the area subjectively. The system provides a uniform and objective way to rate the risk of areas.

The other benefit of the system is that field offices can rank the areas in their jurisdiction by risk. The Risk Rating System groups the possible scores into categories of higher and lower risk. Areas that *really* pose the highest risk can then become top priority for education, suppression and patrolling.

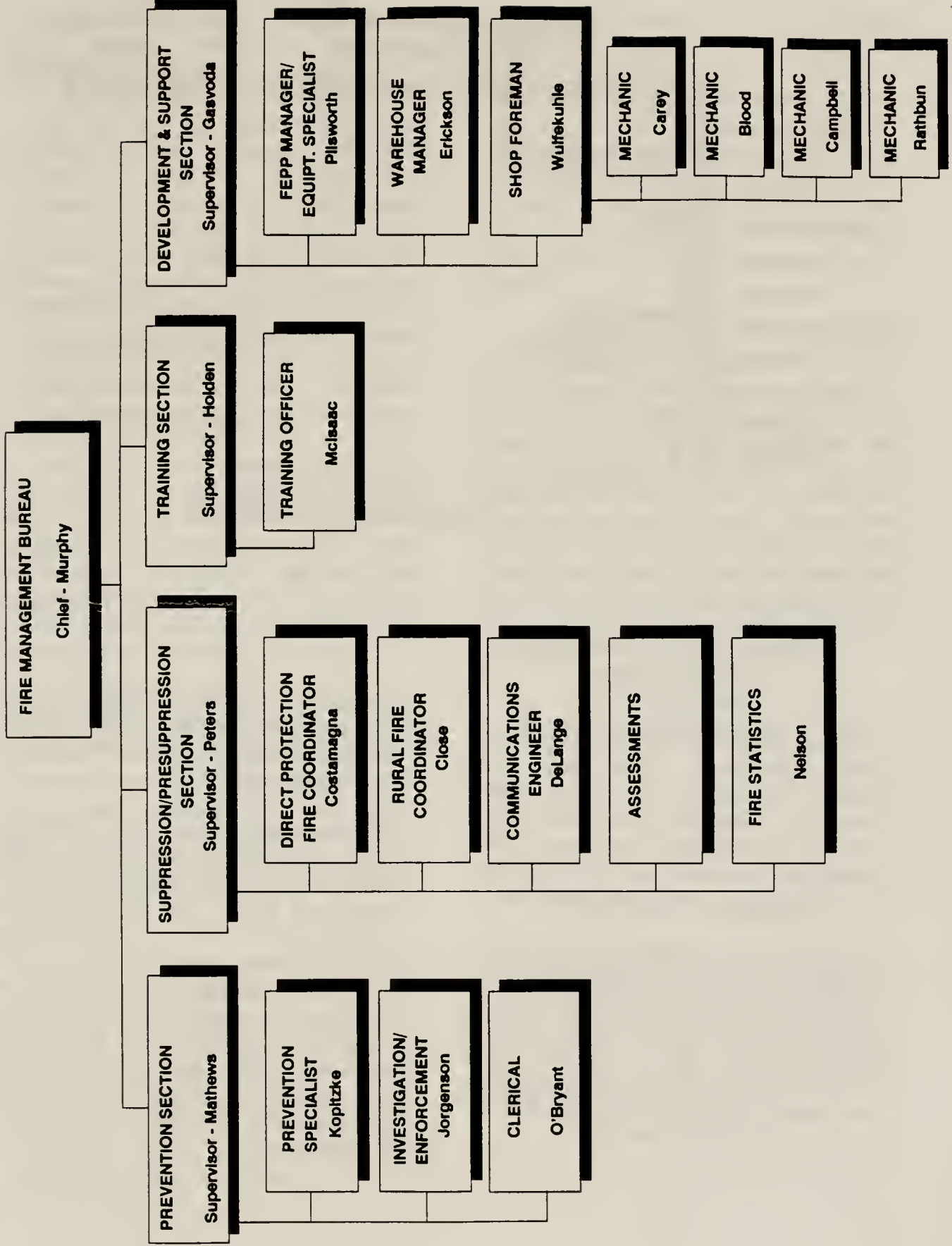
For more information about the Risk Rating System, or to get copies of it, contact Mike Kopitzke at 542-4251 or 2701 Spurgin Rd., Missoula, MT 59802.

MONTANA DSL FIRE MANAGEMENT BUREAU

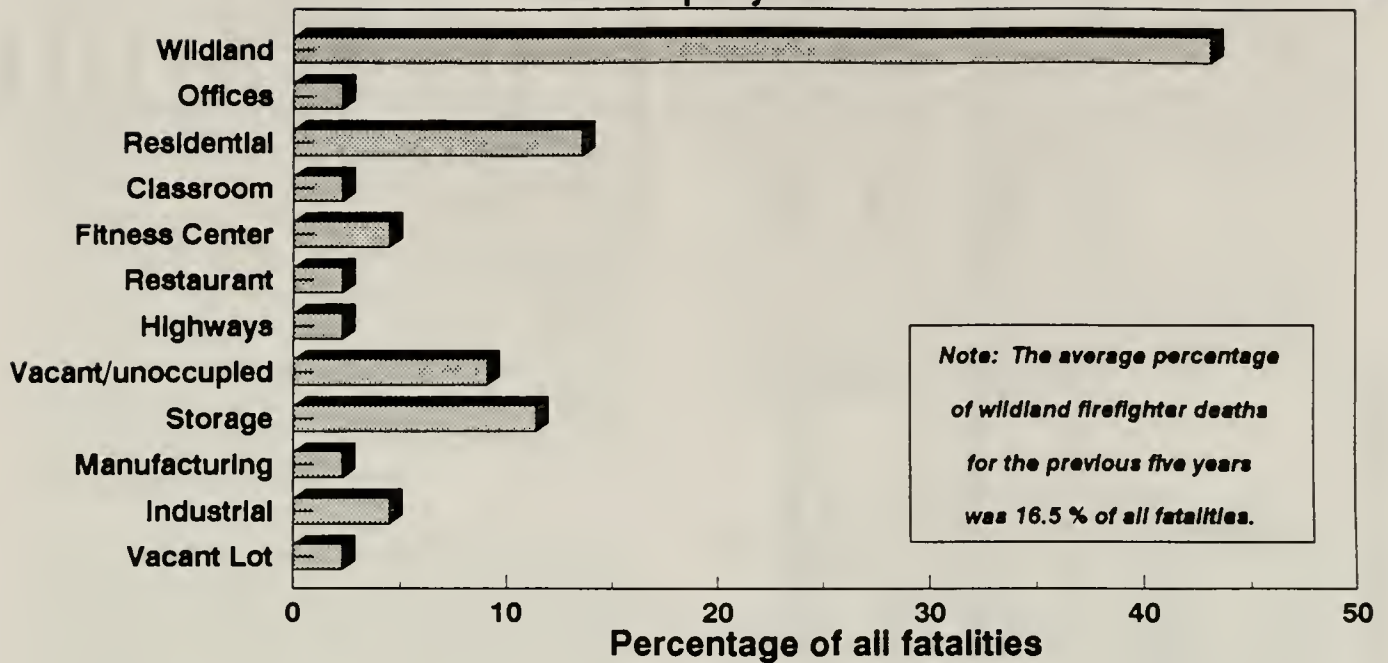
In the May 1990 Fireguard, an organizational chart showing the Field Operations Division of DSL was presented. In this issue, an organizational chart of the Fire Management Bureau is presented. These charts are printed to give a better understanding of how DSL meets its fire responsibilities through the people in various management positions. The phone number for DSL fire management is 542-4250 in Missoula.

DSL FORESTRY DIVISION - FIRE MANAGEMENT BUREAU

8-1-91



Firefighter Deaths in 1990 Fixed Property Use



WILDLAND FIRE FIGHTER FATALITIES

Wildland fire fighter fatalities have been a serious problem in recent years. The extended drought in the western United States has contributed to the number and severity of wildfires in the region. This special analysis includes not only those fires, but all fatal grass, brush, and forest fires.

From 1986 through 1990, 601 on-duty fire fighters died, 99 (16.5 percent) of them as a result of wildland fires. In 1990, as mentioned earlier in this report, wildland fires accounted for by far the largest proportion of fireground deaths, exceeding the number of deaths at residential fires for only the second time since 1977.

Of the 99 fire fighters who died at wildland fires in the past 5 years, 71 were operating on the fireground, 24 were responding to or returning from the scene.

The largest proportion of the 71 fireground fatalities involved heart attacks (21 deaths). Fourteen fire fighters died as a result of smoke and burns, most when they were overrun by fire. Thirteen fire fighters were killed in eight aircraft crashes during suppression activities. Three others were killed in motor vehicle collisions on the ground, and 3 were struck by vehicles. Eight fire fighters were struck by falling trees or snags. Three victims were fatally injured in falls. Two died of strokes and 2 of heat stroke.

One was struck by lightning, and 1 stepped on a downed power line and was electrocuted.

Of the 71 fire fighters who were operating on the fireground, 30 were members of local fire departments (24 volunteer, 6 career), 11 were pilots contracted by various state and federal agencies, 10 were attached to prison crews (9 inmates, 1 supervisor), 8 were career fire fighters employed by state forestry agencies, 3 were seasonal employees of federal agencies, and 2 were non-pilot contractors. By our criteria, the total of 71 is divided into 21 career and 50 volunteer fire fighters.

Of the 24 fire fighters killed while responding to or returning from wildland fires, 17 died in motor vehicle accidents, including 3 in a helicopter crash. Five suffered fatal heart attacks. One was killed returning from the fire line when the truck he was riding in was struck by a falling tree or snag. One fell from an apparatus.

Fourteen of the 24 fire fighters were members of local fire departments (13 volunteer, 1 career). Eight were career fire fighters employed by federal agencies. One was a seasonal employee of a federal agency and 1 was a career employee of a state forestry agency. By our criteria, the total of 24 is divided into 10 career and 14 volunteer fire fighters.

As noted, 1990 is only the second time since the NFPA began doing this study in 1977 that the largest proportion of fireground fatalities occurred not in residential properties but in wildland fires. Nineteen fire fighters died in wildland fires during 1990. In addition to those 19 deaths, 2 other fire fighters, both volunteers, died while responding to such fires.

The most serious incident in 1990 resulted in the deaths of 6 fire fighters - 5 inmates and their supervisor. They all suffered smoke inhalation and burns when they were overrun by the fire. Ironically, the next day in a neighboring state, the same scenario resulted in the deaths of 2 more inmates. Later in the summer, 2 fire fighters cutting a fire line with a bulldozer also were overrun by fire and fatally burned.

One fire fighter died of a heart attack while operating at a grass fire. One fire fighter operating at a large fire involving brush and several dwellings fell down a steep hillside and hit a tree stump; the resulting pulmonary embolism led to his death. A fire fighter who was caught in a flare-up was fatally burned. Another was struck on the head by a burning snag. One fire fighter suffered a stroke while attending a morning briefing before going on the fire line. And finally, a fire fighter working at a grass fire died of heat stroke.

(Edited from:
NFPA JOURNAL July/August 1991)

Position Available

Assistant Chief/Training Officer Position for the Helena Fire Department. Duties also include Safety Officer. Non-Union Position. Pay grade 24. Closing Date is September 30, For job description and further information phone 447-8472.

Fire Training Section



This year's fire prevention theme is...

FIRE WON'T WAIT...PLAN YOUR ESCAPE!

Here are a few ideas you might pass onto your community.

What will you do if fire breaks out?

Make sure your family has smoke detectors properly installed and replace the batteries twice a year. On October 27 we turn back our clocks, it's a good time to replace those batteries.

You might consider residential sprinklers for complete fire safety protection.

Your family should have a plan on how everyone would exit the home if a fire occurs. Practice your plan, hold home exit drills at least twice a year.

Will you be warned in time to escape?

You need to have smoke detectors outside each sleeping area and on each level of your home. Be sure to test your smoke detectors regularly. Replace batteries when the detectors emit a warning chirp or at least twice a year. Smoke detectors are inexpensive, and they could save your life.

Make an escape plan.

Know two ways out. When a fire occurs, there's no time for planning. Sit down with your family today, and make a step by step fire escape plan.

Get Out Fast! Don't Go Back, No Matter What! Call the Fire Department After You Escape.

Practice your plan.

The majority of fatal fires occurs when people are sleeping. So practice home fire drills from the bedrooms. Everyone should shut their bedroom doors and wait for the monitor to sound the alarm.

Make sure the exit drills are as realistic as possible. Practice both escape routes. Remember, fire drills are not a race. We must get out quickly, but carefully!

Be ready for hazards on your way out.

Before opening bedroom doors, make sure there's no fire on the other side. Kneel at the door and reach up and touch the door handle with the back of your hand. If you feel heat, use your second way out.

Crawl low.

Smoke contains deadly gases and is hot, so it will fill the room from the top down. If you encounter smoke using your primary exit, use your alternate route instead. If you must exit through smoke, the best air will be several inches off the floor. Get down on your hands and knees, and crawl quickly to the exit.

(The next page contains a coloring-book page suitable for children)

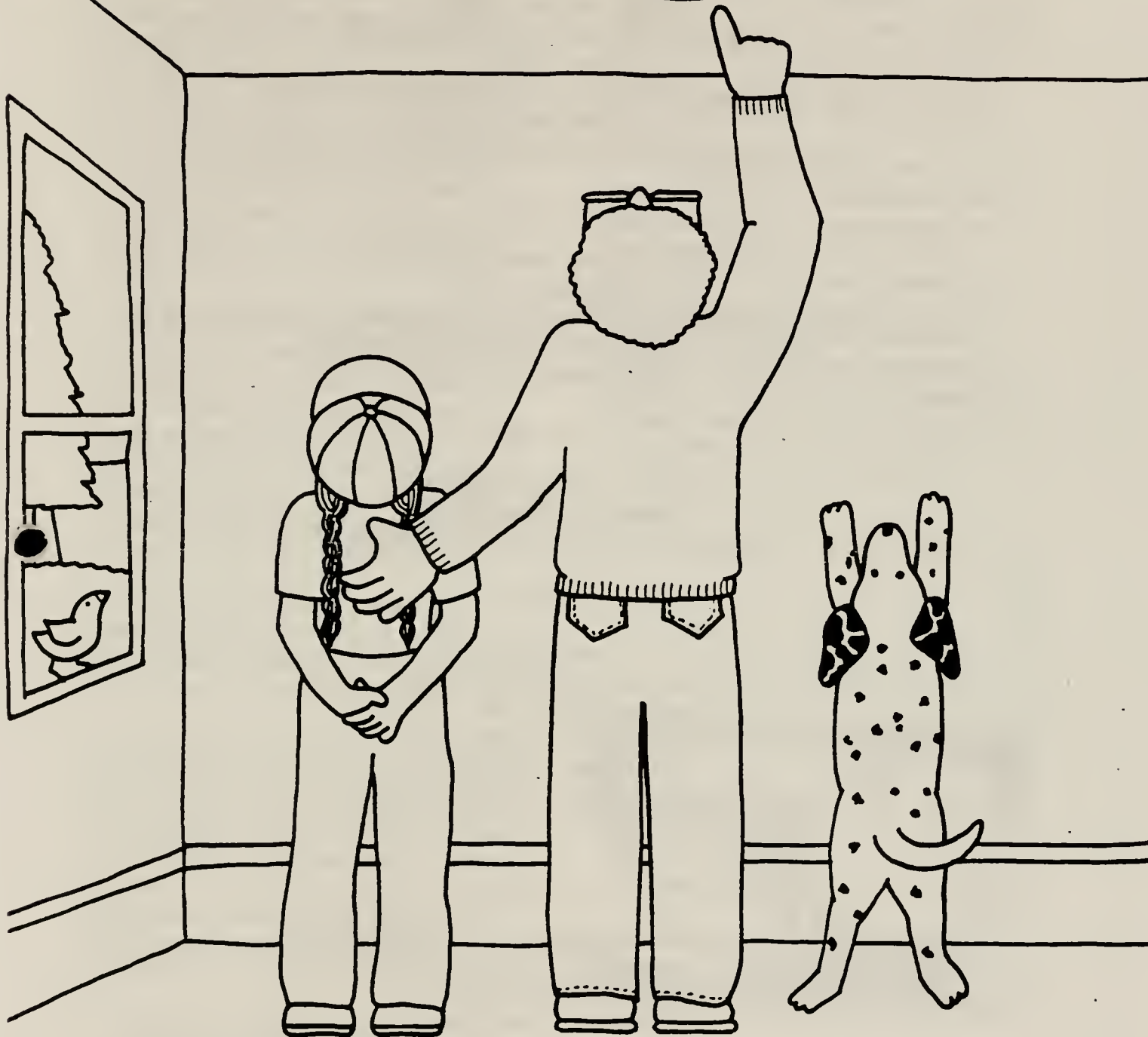


FIRE PREVENTION WEEK
OCTOBER 6-12, 1991

The smoke detectors in your home are there to warn you if a fire should start.



BEEP!
BEEP!



BE FIRE SMART

Ask your parents to let you hear how they sound. If you ever hear them go off, run out of the house immediately.

Upcoming Courses of Special Interest

DES Extrication Course

September 7, Flathead County Fairgrounds

7 AM - 7 PM

All first responders are invited. Bring protective clothing.

Lunch and snacks will be provided.

For more information call Flathead County DES 756-5630

NFA Fire Fighter Safety and Survival

September 14 - 15

Montana Highway Dept. Auditorium, 2701 Prospect Ave, Helena

Instructor: Scott Kerwood, Tulsa Fire Department

Course starts at 8:30 AM

Survivair SCBA Maintenance

October 15, 6 PM - 10 PM

East Helena Valley, LaCasa Grande Station #2

NFPA 1500

Fire Fighter Health and Safety

October 25, 8:30 AM - 5 PM

Billings Fire Department

Instructor: Mike Young

Volunteer Fireman's Insurance Services

Apparatus Driver Operator - Instructor Course

October 26, 8:30 AM - 5 PM

Laurel Fire Department

Instructor: Mike Young

New Chief's Course

January 11 - 12 FTS - Great Falls

Course for new fire chiefs and officers.

Dateline: Wolf Creek

Chief Sonny Stiger and members of the Wolf Creek Fire Department (WCFD) have been working on the formation of a fire service area. A public hearing was held in Wolf Creek on August 6 and drew approximately 100 people. The hearing was chaired and very well controlled by Lewis and Clark County Commissioner Linda Sthol-Anderson. The following are observations by an outsider, sitting in on the proceedings.

- * The public that attended believed that creation of a fee area would increase their taxes, and they were there to see that didn't happen. Many said they were happy to increase their donations, but they didn't want a tax. The public did not realize the amount of time, energy and expense required of department members to collect/solicit those donations.

- * The public that attended was very interested in having their say, but based on the number of times the same question was asked, there was little listening going on.

- * WCFD operates a Quick Response Unit (QRU) which would also be supported by the revenue generated by the proposed fee area. People testified that "the QRU saved my life", and "did an excellent job at an accident". However, the public perceived that this fee would support the "Fire Department", and there was little discussion about it's support of the QRU.

- * Several in the audience perceived that the WCFD members were reaping a personal windfall from working for DSL.

- * The public perceived that they were at increased risk when the WCFD fire

fighters and apparatus were working for DSL in remote locations.

- * The public had the impression that their fire protection should be free, that it was some how be the responsibility of the members of the WCFD to take care of that. That they had no responsibility.

Chief Stiger did his job, by putting his public on notice that resources are not adequate and that the members cannot continue to operate in their current predicament. A number of generous donations have been received since the hearing but not a fraction of what is needed. A local citizens committee has formed to raise funds for the organization. Whether they can succeed in raising the needed revenue, only time can tell.



Most folks wouldn't believe that the Jordan Volunteer Fire Department is manned by a gentleman called "Bosco," who is a native of France. Bosco lives in the rear of the station.

New Fire Training Building in Libby

The Libby Volunteer Fire Department recently constructed a building to train and test fire fighters for the Fire Fighter 1 exam.

The building is 20' x 36' two story, wood framed with cedar siding. The roof has a two pitch design; one side with a 2-12 pitch and the other with a 8-12 pitch. The center has a false roof built 12 inches above the metal roofing. In the false roof, there is a 4' x 8' plywood sheet that can be cut, simulating a ventilation hole. These 4' x 8' sheets can be easily replaced. The two pitch roof design gives fire fighters ventilation practice on steep and flat slopes.

The building has two styles of stairs; one with a 3' x 3' landing half way up with a 90 degree turn and one that is straight.



The fire department will fill the structure with artificial smoke from a smoke generator. This will give the fire fighters the feel of fire and smoke conditions. The artificial smoke won't stain or smell up the interior finish.

The building is located at a local ball field. The structure's first floor can be used as a kitchen and food concession stand. This will be used during the annual logger days festival and other special events.



The Libby Ambulance Department will use the building to train their members the proper techniques for removing a patient in a stretcher from the upper floor with the two styles of stairs.

The Sheriff's Department will also use the building for mock drills of shoot-outs and search drills.

A contractor was hired to build the structure with the help of fire department personnel. Most of the lumber was donated by Champion International Corporation, and they will also donate the 4' x 8' plywood sheets used in the ventilation roof cut prop.

For more information contact Charlie Comer, Libby Fire Marshal, Box 796, Libby, MT 59923 or call 293-9217. The Fire School also has a copy of the floor plan which we will send to interested parties.



REIMBURSEMENT AVAILABLE FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE ACTIONS

The Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA) not only included Title III as a free standing statute, it also included reimbursements for emergency response actions (Section 123), which can be beneficial to local communities as they prepare for and respond to chemical accidents. Section 123 authorizes the EPA to reimburse local governments for expenses incurred in carrying out temporary emergency measures in response to hazardous substance incidents. Temporary emergency measures may include such activities as erecting security fencing to limit access, responding to fires, explosions, and chemical releases, and other actions that might require immediate response at the local level in order to prevent or mitigate injury to human health or the environment.

Other types of reimbursement might be for costs of such items as disposable materials and supplies used during a specific response; rental or leasing of equipment contaminated beyond reuse or repair during a specific response; special technical services and laboratory costs; and services and supplies purchased for specific evacuation.

Reimbursement, however, must not supplant local government funds normally provided for emergency response.

The reimbursement money is distributed to those applicants who demonstrate the greatest financial burden, and the EPA has

developed a formula for determining financial burden that is based upon the ratio of eligible response costs to an applicant's per capita income adjusted for population. The law specifically limits reimbursement to \$25,000 per single response. For more information on Section 123 and to obtain an application package (EPA Form 9310-1) you may contact RCRA/Superfund hotline (800)424-9346 or Region VIII EPA Cheryl Shilling (303)294-7127 or the Montana SERC at 444-6911.

MEDICAL ADVICE AVAILABLE DURING CHEMICAL EMERGENCIES

Did you know that the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), maintains a 24-hour hot line that will link responders with medical professionals. Within 10 minutes of a call, ATSDR will link you with an emergency response coordinator; and within 20 minutes the Agency can provide access to a Preliminary Assessment Team of toxicologists, environmental health scientists, chemists, physicians, and others as needed. If an emergency demands it, ATSDR can also send an on-site team within 8 hours to manage the medical response. The ATSDR emergency response number is (404) 639-0615.

ATSDR also offers pre-emergency health consultation services to help prepare response agencies to handle such problems as decontamination, health team coordination, evacuation and re-entry, first aid and medical treatment protocols, and medical contingency planning. Write to ATSDR; 1600 Clifton Road NE; Atlanta, GA 30333.

Heat, Noise, Physical Exertion May Cause Reproductive Hazards for Fire Fighters

Heat, noise and physical exertion may cause reproductive hazards for fire fighters, according to the American Journal of Industrial Medicine (Vol.265, No.12).

Fire fighters performing tasks requiring physical exertion (particularly in protective clothing) are at risk for developing reproductive problems. Fire fighters may develop hyperthermia, and "hyperthermia may pose a significant reproductive hazard for male fire fighters and fire fighters who are pregnant," according to the article.

Research in the late 1980's, links hyperthermia in humans to decreased sperm counts, abnormal sperm, maternal fever resulting in birth defects to the fetus and hearing loss in children of exposed mothers. The authors found "sufficient evidence" to warrant further study of the connection between male infertility and occupational hyperthermia.

Training of fire fighters in hot weather "has the potential of raising core body temperatures and therefore should be addressed along with active fire suppression when designing hyperthermia prevention strategies for pregnant fire fighters," the article said.

Noise and physical exertion are also reproductive hazards for fire fighters, according to the article. Two studies linking noise exposure to increased rates of birth defects and low birth weight were cited by authors.

Consequences of physical activity on reproductive health include testicular damage, hormonal change, impotence in men, amenorrhea and miscarriages and women of premature and low birth weight babies.

Until recently, the authors said, the study of occupational reproductive hazards has focused primarily on female reproductive health.

(Source: Occupational Safety and Health Reporter, April 3, 1991.)

EMS ALERT

On April 23, Montana became the first State to allow citizens to wear a bracelet or carry a card informing emergency responders that they do not wish to be resuscitated. Those eligible for the program must have been declared terminally ill by a physician's do-not-resuscitate (DNR) order on their charts.

Now, emergency responders need only to see a Comfort One identification form, card or bracelet and confirm the patient's identity. They then follow the State Board of Medical Examiner's protocol, providing comfort and supportive care, but no resuscitative measures.

"There are two methods by which a patient can get Comfort One," said Drew Dawson, Montana State EMS Director, "either by having a living will and being declared terminally ill by a physician, or with a valid DNR order, with or without a living will. From the EMT's perspective, it makes no difference - all they need to see is Comfort One identification."

The Comfort One Task Force is now designing a special gold and green metal bracelet that will be quickly recognizable.

In order to be valid under this system, a DNR order must be recorded with a designated local agency that will then issue a DNR bracelet to the patient. Then, according to the guidelines, "An intact DNR bracelet must be attached to the patient's wrist for the program to be valid."

The Bravest Fire Fighter in the World

When we think about the fire and rescue service as an occupation (or avocation), we often think of it in conjunction with words such as brave, courageous, and bold. Many lives have been risked and lost in the name of bravery. The true tragedy of it all is that the bravest men and women in the world are those who challenge traditional definitions and seek change for the better.

The fire service is perhaps one of the most traditional occupations in America, and most fire service professionals are proud to serve their communities. However, there are a few flaws in the fire service. More specifically, the word "change" is not in the working vocabulary of many fire departments.

It is common knowledge that fire prevention is the key to saving lives. Why then do we continue to pour a disproportionate share of our efforts in the directions of suppression and other reactionary activities?

Many fire fighters are not aware of the fact that in most fires, fatalities occur before the fire department is even notified about the fire. This is a tragedy. No fire fighter wants to see death, but in so many cases, it is all that is seen.

Several months ago, five children residing in North Carolina were saved when a fire broke out in their home. The children had participated in an ongoing educational program. A volunteer officer had sponsored this program for the last seven years.

Members of his department confessed that they had tried to convince him to stop putting so much time into the program because they are a rural fire department and rarely have structural fires.

He challenged their comments, and because of his stand five children are alive today. In that one instant, the twelve year old babysitter was able to make critical decisions based on the information given to her by the fire department officer. In that one instant, an estimated 356 years of potential life were saved.

This fire department officer exemplifies the meaning of bravery in the fire service. True bravery comes from within. Challenging tradition with new and better ways of fighting fires - through prevention and education - constitutes real heroism. Let's make the 90's a decade of change for the fire service. Let's put our efforts into accepting new and better ways of saving lives.

(Reprinted from Bulletin, July 1991, Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute, Univ. of Maryland)

LEGISLATIVE CHANGES FOR PAID FIRE FIGHTERS

HB 760. Members of the Fire Fighters' Unified Retirement System who were hired on or after July 1, 1981 will have their disability benefits figured on the same basis as those hired prior to that date. For purposes of calculating the amount of disability retirement benefit, the final month's compensation will be used instead of a 36-month average.

HB 372 requires cities joining the Fire Fighters' Unified Retirement System after June 30, 1991 to retain responsibility for pay off of the excess unfunded liabilities of their local plans. An actuarial valuation will be conducted of the former plans of all new members and a schedule for paying any unfunded liabilities will be negotiated with the city as a prerequisite for FFURS membership.

Residential Sprinkler Trailer



The Residential Sprinkler Trailer (RST) on loan from FEMA as been resided and remodeled. Any community that would like to host a demonstration of the RST unit can call the Fire School for details.

VOLUNTEER FIRE FIGHTER BENEFITS STABILIZED

Beginning with July benefit payments, the full participation benefit for retired volunteer fire fighters will be set at \$120/month, with partial participation benefits based on this total amount and in proportion to the retiree's volunteer service. Benefits paid during July 1, 1991 through June, 1993 will be:

Years of Service	Monthly Benefits
10	\$ 60
11	66
12	72
13	78
14	84
15	90
16	96
17	102
18	108
19	114
20	120

HB 599 also requires that a study be made of the Volunteer Fire Fighters' Pension Fund in order to determine whether the Fund can continue to pay benefits at this level. The Pubic Employees' Retirement Board will report these findings to the next Legislature along with recommendations for permanent stabilization of benefits for volunteer fire fighters.

If you want to be a top banana, remember this: When you're green, you're growing. When you're ripe, you rot.

Around the State

Don Barnhart is the new Fire Chief for the City of Columbia Falls.

Bill Rash has been appointed Fire Chief for Belgrade Fire District. Dave Cameron, Billings F.D. Captain, has been appointed Assistant Chief/Fire Marshal for the Belgrade Fire District effective in January 1992.

Tom Kingma, Chief Rae Volunteer Fire Department, Bozeman is looking for volunteer fire fighters who will be attending Montana State University this year. You can call him at 587-7818 for more information and details.

Ron Turk is the new Fire Chief for the City of Thompson Falls.

The new Fire Chief in Florence is Vern Shreve. The new Assistant Chief is Gordon Gieser. Bob Krout retired from the Fire Chief's position, he served the Florence Fire Department 21 years.

Dick Brown has been appointed Assistant Chief for the Lewistown Fire Department.

Retired Polson Fire Chief Bud Morse passed away the last week of August.

* The House Committee on Public Works and Transportation has approved easing federal truck weight restrictions for at least two years to allow fire fighting apparatus to use federal highways and bridges.

Under current regulations, vehicles having a weight greater than 20,000 pounds on one axle or more than 34,000 pounds on any tandem axle are restricted from using many bridges.

To voice your support for this provision, refer to Section 119 of HR2950, of the Federal Highway Bill.

Fire Service Well Represented on the Hill

The Congressional Fire Service Caucus (CFSC) enlisted its 400th member on June 28, solidifying CFSC's standing as the largest Caucus on Capitol Hill. Congressman Curt Weldon (R-PA), founder of CFSC, said "Reaching 400 members will certainly be a shot in the arm for the Caucus at a time when several bills important to the fire service are working their way through Congress."

Around the Country

* Senator Nancy Kassebaum (R-KS) has introduced a bill (S480) to provide grants to states for creating or enhancing rural air transport systems for medical emergency victims. The bill has been referred to the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee.

All you need to do is tell people they are no good 10 times a day, and very soon they will begin to believe it.

Advisory Council meets

The FTS Advisory Council will meet September 29 at the FTS Offices.

The agenda includes adoption of a new fire fighter standard, continuation of the planning process, a presentation on marketing, discussion on the pending budget cut, and other topics.

All council meetings are open to the public.

Current Council members include:

Ross Fitzgerald, Power Chair
Bill Perrin, Stevensville Vice Chair
Bruce Suenram, Missoula Rural
Dick Seddon, Kalispell
Dean Glover, Plentywood
Ken Bruwelheide, Bozeman
Gary Mahugh, Creston

Last Chance

The FTS Advisory Council will hold it's final hearing September 27th, at the Chief's Conference, before adopting a revised Fire Fighter Standard. Your input helps shape the result!

Wanted - Host Departments For Breathing Apparatus Regulator Seminars

The Fire School would like to ask Fire Departments to host regional SCBA Regulator Seminar's. Some SCBA courses may cost up to \$25 per person. If you cannot host a seminar, could you send one or two people to another location? The Fire School would also like to know what brand of SCBA you department uses.



Miles City Fire Department Pierce - Dash. 1250 GPM Single Stage Pump, 750 Gallon Tank, powered by 6V92 Detroit (350 HP), has a built in generator and elevating flood lights and is completely wired for 120 volts. They like it.

Halon Kills Youth

A 16-year old North Carolina boy died this spring after he deliberately inhaled halon vapors. Apparently, the boy expelled the gas from a fire extinguisher into a plastic bag and sniffed the vapors for 10 to 20 minutes.

According to the Rocky Mountain Poison Center, researchers believe that when halogenated gases are inhaled, the heart becomes supersensitive to adrenaline.

Great ideas need landing gear as well as wings.

1991
**MONTANA STATE FIRE CHIEFS'
ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE**

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM for September 26,27,28, 1991

NAME _____ RANK _____

DEPARTMENT AFFILIATION _____

PREFERRED MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. BOX or STREET CITY STATE ZIP

PLEASE CHECK IF HOME ADDRESS

SPOUSE'S NAME _____

(If attending conference)

(optional) Home _____

Telephone Numbers

WORK _____

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES - \$ 25.00 (if membership not paid) \$ _____

REGISTRATION FEE - \$ 60.00, Single / \$ 90.00 couple \$ _____

TOTAL TO BE REMITTED \$ _____

REGISTRATION FORMS received after September 15th

*

will be charged \$ 65.00 Single / \$ 95.00 Couple

*

PLEASE - ENCLOSE CHECK OR CLAIM VOUCHER with registration form and return to

MONTANA STATE FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

C/O Lyle Nagel

P.O. BOX 93

Simms, Mt. 59477

Please Make checks payable to :

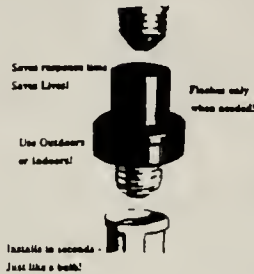
MONTANA STATE FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD AT:

SHERATON INN 400 11th Ave S. Great Falls

(TELEPHONE 727-7200 or * Toll Free in State * 1-800-626-8000)

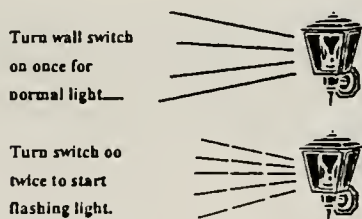
Emergency Response Lite



Lewis and Clark County Crime Prevention Unit is marketing an Emergency Response Lite in their area. This lite turns any outside light into a distress signal to guide emergency vehicles to your home quickly.

This lite is good for homes that are: hard to find, in a rural area, in a mobile home park, or in a dark neighborhood. The Emergency Response Lite can save precious moments by providing emergency personnel an easy to follow, flashing signal. Their sheriff's office is advising people to call 9-1-1 in case of emergencies, and then tell the driver operators to look for the flashing light.

The lite works with any outside light. Turn the outside light switch once for normal operation, turn the switch twice to start the flashing light.



The Sheriff's office is selling these units for \$14.95 each. For more information on these units contact Bill Fleiner, Undersheriff, Lewis and Clark Sheriff's Office, 221 Breckenridge, Helena, MT 59601 or phone 447-8235.

The Cost of Fire

A pair of studies recently completed for the Center For Fire Research (CFR) indicate that the cost of fire in the U.S. totals \$128 billion annually, far higher than previous estimates. The \$128 billion dollar figure includes \$115 billion for the cost of fires and an additional \$13 billion for the economic cost of fire deaths and injuries. These figures are included in "A First Pass at Computing the Cost of Fire Safety in a Modern Society," a report prepared for CFR by the Herndon Group, Incorporated.

TriData prepared a companion study, "Estimated Impact of the Center for Fire Research Program on the Cost of Fire." This report estimates that the programs of CFR save the United States a minimum of \$6 - 9 billion and possibly as much as \$12 - 26 billion annually.

According to John W. Lyons, Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, "People often are horrified by the images of death and destruction caused by a major fire...after a few days of intense television and newspaper coverage, public interest wanes until the next disaster. Perhaps we can better reach people through their pocketbooks."

Each year fires in the U.S. result in over 6,000 deaths and 28,000 injuries.

(Congressional Fire Services Institute, June 1991)

Your goals should be just out of reach but not out of sight.

1991 - 92 TRAINING SCHEDULE

It is important to pre-register for each of the following courses as minimum attendance has been established and must be met or the class will be canceled. NOTE: (NA-National Fire Academy Field Course); (FTS-Fire Training School located in Great Falls Vo-Tech Center; 2100 16th Avenue South); (EMS-Emergency Medical Services Bureau, 444-3895); (DES-Disaster & Emergency Services, call 444-6963 to register); (DOT-Department of Transportation); (DSL-Department of State Lands, call 542-4300 for info); (EENET-Emergency Education Network Satellite Programs; Galaxy 6, Transponder 10).

DATE	COURSE	LOCATION
<u>September</u>		
5	Haz Mats Awareness Instructor Handoff	Havre
7	DES Extrication Course 7 AM - 7 PM	Flathead Co. Fairgrounds
11	EENET Using Long Range Sensing	9:00 AM - 1:30 PM
11-12	Creative Financing	Billings
11-12	Developing Volunteer Resources	Billings
14-15	FF Safety/Survival Co Officer's Responsibility	Helena Valley
14-15	Instructor Assoc Fall Meeting	Billings
18	EENET Distance Learning	11:00 AM - 1:30 PM
19	Recognizing Explosives	Libby 7:30 PM
21-22	Fire Safety Workshop With Phoenix Clowns	FTS - Great Falls
21-22	FF Coaches Clinic	Dillon
23	Haz Mats Awareness Instructor Handoff	Great Falls
25	EENET FEMA Earthquake Mitigation Training	Noon - 2:00 PM
27-28	Fire Chief's Conference with Jack Snook (Recruiting, Retaining, Motivating Quality Personnel)	Sheraton - Great Falls
29	Black Hills District Fire School	Rapid City, S.D.
<u>October</u>		
5	ISO Grading & Pumper Testing	Frenchtown
15	Survivair SCBA Maintenance	LaCasa Grande Station 2, 6 PM
16	Haz Mats Awareness Instructor Handoff	Missoula
20	ISO Grading & Pumper Testing	Forsyth
21 - 25	NFPA Fire Code Seminar	Denver, CO.
25	NFPA 1500 - Fire Fighter Health & Safety	Billings F.D. 8:30 AM - 5 PM
26	Apparatus Driver Operator	Laurel F.D. 8:30 AM - 5 PM
28 - Nov 1	NFPA Fire Code Seminar	Bellevue, WA.
30	EENET Wildfire Strikes Home & Issues	9:00 AM - 1:30 PM
30	DES Park County Meeting	Livingston 7:30 PM
<u>November</u>		
6	EENET How Effective Is Your Fire Prev Program	9:00 AM - 1:30 PM
17-22	LEA Arson Investigation	Bozeman
20	EENET Clandestine Drug Labs For 1st Responders	9:00 AM - 1:30 PM

December

4	EENET Infection Control For Fire Personnel	9:00 AM - 1:30 PM
4	Haz Mats Awareness Instructor Handoff	Kalispell
5	Haz Mats Awareness Instructor Handoff	Shelby
11 & 12	EENET DOT Haz Mats Transportation Incidents	9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

1992

January

4 - 5	NFA Fire Fighter Safety & Survival	Wolf Point
11-12	New Chiefs Course	FTS-Great Falls

February

1 - 2	Basic Photography/Camcorder Video	FTS-Great Falls
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April

4 - 5	NFA Managing Company Tactical Operations	Florence
4 - 5	NFA Managing Company Tactic Decision Making	Billings
25-26	NFA Managing Company Tactic Decision Making	Bozeman
25-26	NFA Managing Company Tactic Decision Making	Columbia Falls

May

2 - 3	NFA Leadership - Strategy for Success	FTS-Great Falls
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June

15 - 19	NFPA Fire Code Seminar	Minneapolis, MN.
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****Make sure you register for each course. Please register with the various sponsoring agencies noted. For FTS and NFA Courses use the following form.***

— REGISTRATION FORM —

Course: _____ Location/Date: _____

Name _____ Soc Sec # _____

Address _____

Department _____ Daytime Phone _____

Return to: MSUES Fire Training School; 2100 16th Avenue South; Great Falls 59405-4997; Phone: 761-7885



FIRE GUARD NEWSLETTER
MSUES Fire Training School
2100 16th Avenue South
Great Falls, MT 59405-4997



BULK RATE